

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 – 2 to overcome the rejections and further specify the embodiments of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claim. The claim is now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

OBJECTION TO OATH/DECLARATION:

The Declaration has been objected as not providing mailing address of each inventor.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the mailing address of each inventor was provided in the Declaration filed together with the present application on July 22, 2004 (copy enclosed). According to MPEP 605.03, either applicant's home or business address is acceptable as the mailing address. As shown in the Declaration, the address of each inventor is "c/o NOK CORPORATION, 30 Miyado, Nihonmatsu-shi, Fukushima, Japan". The zip code is "946-8533."

Therefore, the previously filed Declaration provided the required mailing address for each of the inventors and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1 – 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bähler et al. (US 5,075,195), hereinafter Bähler.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. More specifically, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to further specify additional features that are not disclosed or

suggested by Bähler. More specifically, the amended Claim 1 is directed to a marking method including the following steps:

- (1) An object to be marked is made of a PTFE in which contained fibers are interlaced;
- (2) A laser beam is irradiated onto a marking position on the object to be marked to loosen the interlaced fibers adjacent to the surface of the PTFE and to fluff the irradiated surface of the PTFE (see Fig. 1);
- (3) The irradiated surface of the PTFE exhibits a color tone different from that of a non-irradiated surface of the PTFE to form a marking with a white-based color (see above passages); and
- (4) A marking speed of 300 to 400 mm/s and a laser beam power of 2.4 to 7.2 W are set in an irradiating condition of a laser beam.

In addition, Claim 2 has been amended to directed to a product in accordance with the present invention that has the following features:

- (5) An object to be marked is made of a PTFE in which contained fibers are interlaced;
- (6) A laser beam is irradiated onto a marking position on the object to be marked to loosen the interlaced fibers adjacent to the surface of the PTFE and to fluff the irradiated surface of the PTFE (see Fig. 1); and
- (7) The irradiated surface of the PTFE exhibits a color tone different from that of a non-irradiated surface of the PTFE to form a marking with a white-based color (see above passages).

It is respectfully submitted that Bähler does not disclose or suggest the above features of (1) to (7). Although the method of Bähler discloses that the plastics object includes a PTFE (polyterafluoethylene), the plastics object contains a molybdenum disulfide as a radiation-sensitive additive. When the molybdenum disulfide is subject to irradiation of a laser beam, it changes a light reflectance to form a marking on the object. Bähler neither disclose nor suggest that the surface of PTFE is fluffed by irradiation of the laser beam and that a marking speed of 300 to 400 mm/s and a laser beam power of 2.4 to 7.2 W are set in an irradiation condition of a laser beam as required in the amended Claims 1 – 2.

Therefore, the embodiments of the present invention as claimed are different from Bähler. The newly presented claims are not anticipated by Bähler and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) is respectfully requested.

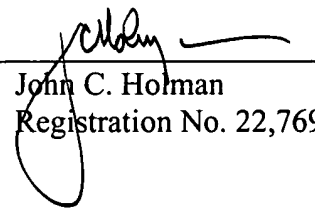
Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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